

S E C R E T/

El Salvador:

- The espousal by officials of the Salvadoran Government of the Contadora process is for international consumption only. The GOES has no intention of signing an agreement unless significant changes are made in the revised acta. The GOES does not trust the Sandinistas to comply with any agreement in any event.
- The GOES further believes that a "regionalization" of the Contadora process would be desirable; its position is that the original Contadora countries made a good beginning with the initial draft agreement, but the process should go further and essentially make Central America responsible for its own destiny.

Honduras:

- There appears to be a difference in Honduras between civilian and military authorities over the Contadora process. The civilians believe that the revised acta represents an improvement and that it would be acceptable to Honduras with certain changes. In the aggregate, these changes would signify a relinquishment by Nicaragua of its current overwhelming military superiority.
- The Honduran military puts no faith whatsoever in the Contadora process as a solution to the problems in Central America. The military believes it will merely buy time for the Sandinistas to consolidate their regime.

Guatemala:

- Despite its public stance of neutrality on regional issues, the Guatemalan Government is privately concerned over the existence of a Marxist, expansionist regime in Nicaragua. Guatemala pays lip service to the Contadora process, primarily because of its dependence upon Mexico and Venezuela for oil.

Panama:

- Panamanian officials view the Contadora Process as an important and irreplaceable initiative but believe that more negotiations are necessary among the Central American countries. Panamanian military leaders favor additional changes to make the treaty more restrictive of Nicaragua.

Colombia:

- President Betancur of Colombia was a primary proponent of the Contadora Process and favors its rapid implementation, in part because of the personal acclaim that he will receive by that action. Recently, he has become concerned that Nicaraguan intransigence vis-a-vis the elections will damage the Contadora process and he is urging the Sandinistas to postpone the elections and become more flexible.

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